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MEANWHILE, DOWN SOUTH—

We mean down south in Central and South America, and what is happening there while U.S. public attention focuses ever more intently on our war against Communism in Viet Nam.



Adm. Rayborn

The Central Intelligence Agency (Adm. William F. Rayborn Jr. chairman) is worried about most of the Latin American countries—particularly about Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

Communist saboteurs, agitators and money, fanning out from Fidel Castro's Communist Cuba, are doing their best to kick up violent rebellions in all the Latin American nations.

They have been having especially good luck in the three countries listed above—though there isn't one Latin American government that doesn't have some Red troubles to combat.

In Venezuela, Red terrorists often attack American oil properties, diplomatic buildings and pipelines. The Venezuelan Government strikes back with frequent arrests of the terrorists, but it still has its hands full.

Colombia is in a virtual state of siege, with Red bandits grabbing whole towns and villages, and murdering or kidnapping almost at will.

Peru is plagued with Communist guerrillas—so much so that it recently has had to fight them with its air force as well as with soldiers and police.

All this, we think, has an ominous significance for the American people, and for President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Castro is still slave-master of Cuba, and Cuba continues to be the first Communist bridgehead in the Western Hemisphere.

It may be too much to expect of the White House and the Pentagon to move to crush Castro while we have so many fighting men and weapons tied up in Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic.

But if the Western Hemisphere ever is to be freed of the threat of spreading Communist enslavement, Communism has to be booted out of Cuba sooner or later. We think both the President and the American people would be wise to make up their minds to give Cuba third place on their list of must-be-cured countries—immediately following Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic.

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